

## Annual General Meeting 2023

Tuesday 31 October 2023, 11.30am  
At Collingwood Library Community Room

### Minutes

#### Attendance:

**Members:** Dianne Alexander; Gwyneth Anderton; Marueen Arch; Mary Atchison; Viv Blanksby; Liz Bodkin-Moore; Patsy Brown; George Buschmann; Tona Buschmann; Christine Butera; Vivien Carroll; Loraine Chessells; Paul Chooi; Vanessa Clarke; Geoff Cleary; Kath Creagh; Susannah Dax; Leonie Elliss; Chris Friday; Patricia Geraghty; Margaret Gibson; Jennie Gorrie; Maureen Grant; Wendy Hall; Robert Hocking; Tina Hocking; Maria Hudson; Sue Kurt; Jan Lawson; Margaret O'Loughlin; Janny Martinus; Lynell McLuggage; Philip McIntyre; John Meagher; Frank Moore; Myra Moore; Peter J Moore; Yasmin Moore; Helen Nankervis; Hilary Newman; Nancy O'Toole; Susan Peirce; Geoff Poynter; Mink Schapper; Virginia Schneiders; Helen Selby; Denise Strantzen; Jan Tinetti; Lyn Watson; Elizabeth Way; Mary Whelan; Dei Williamson; Eva Wynn.

**Apologies:** Barry Giddings; David Lee; Barbara Selvay, Jonno Morris, Janet Taylor, Stephen Alomes, Kerry Bergin.

#### Protocols

- President, Peter Moore, acknowledged that the meeting was being held on the traditional lands of the Wurundjeri Woi Warrung people.
- He noted that voting would be by a show of hands.

#### Agenda Items

##### 1. Confirmation of Minutes of 2022 Annual General meeting, 25 October 2022

Minutes of the previous AGM were distributed to members on October 9, 2023. Acceptance of the 2022 AGM minutes was moved by Elizabeth Way and seconded by Wendy Hall. **The 2022 AGM Minutes were accepted.**

##### 2. President's Annual Report 2023

President, Peter Moore, gave an overview of the U3A membership trends, noting that our numbers were over 400 for the first time. In 2017 membership was at 270, had levelled during COVID, and trended upward since then. Although growth in numbers is positive, maintaining an atmosphere of community and neighbourliness is most important.

The membership is 75% female ( fairly normal for U3As) and our average age has increased slightly to 73. This provides a challenge to attract men, and also younger people to ensure the organisation can regenerate.

This U3A is engaged with the Community through such initiatives as the Refugee Welcome Group, the popular seminars on The Voice and the Ageing Well Group activities.

Our forums are now able to be held in Collingwood Library community room again and we are indebted to Yarra Council, specifically the libraries for their support. We have an excellent partnership with the Council, through Lauren Brooker, Coordinator of Active and Healthy Ageing.

Peter spoke of the work of the Committee of Management and a number of other groups with special roles. He acknowledged Program Coordinator, David Lee, who is retiring; Viv Blanksby (Secretary), Sue Kurt, (Treasurer), Frank Moore, (Technology advisor), Barry Giddings (Privacy, Pickleball convenor), Jan Tinetti (Program Support), Margaret Gibson (correspondence secretary) who is also retiring.

Peter noted that David Lee had been his predecessor as President and was an all round fixer of problems, Margaret Gibson, had lately been responsible for correspondence but 10 years ago had been Secretary and instrumental in developing the first U3A Yarra City Rules to enable our incorporation.

This year, we have adopted the U-MAS member management system which has now been mainly accepted by members. Frank Moore had been a tireless problem-solver. David and Jan have already transferred much data across for 2024.

Mary Walker coordinates volunteers for the office . Although the work has declined since the use of the Internet, old style support is still important. Tina Hocking, Susannah Dax and Lyn Morgan produce our Newsletter. Helen Nankervis has managed our Ageing Well program, including an excellent set of Seniors' month activities. These featured photographic exhibitions, a heritage bike ride and an outstanding forum with Gerard Mansour, retired commissioner for Senior Australians. Peter asked members to consider how they would like to support U3A Yarra City.

Covid is still with us, and a revised policy is being developed in line with current community expectations.

Acceptance of the President's Report was moved by Peter Moore, seconded by Eva Wynn.

**The President's Report was accepted unanimously.**

### **3. Annual Financial Report**

Treasurer, Sue Kurt spoke to the Financial Report pointing out that financially the U3A is in a very good position. There is a substantial sum in our Term Deposit account.

We currently receive excellent support from the Council with discounted rates for our use of Council venues. However we do need to be mindful that our rents may go up, our numbers may increase, we may need more equipment. So caution is required.

The Term Deposit is being continually rolled over. Income has gone up with the increase in membership. "Other" income refers to items such as fees collected for Botanical Gardens visits.

Expenditure items under Admin include:

- approximately \$700 to the U3A Network (which provides us with a range of support through database and website assistance, insurance and other advice).
- rent and services for our office,
- a yearly fee to Consumer Affairs Victoria for our incorporated association status.

Other expenditure included:

- catering expenses for general meetings of members.
- equipment including a new office computer and a DVD player for film.
- Course expenses such Zoom licences and Drama League

### **Questions from the floor**

Q1 Lyn Watson asked were there any Grant funds for the financial year?

- A. Sue explained that the Grant funds received had come later in 2023 and were not part of the 2022-23 financial year.

Q2 Susannah Dax queried the small amount spent on promotional material given that new brochures and posters had been developed.

- A. Again, this related to the time of year in which the bills were received and payment made. More had been spent on publicity that would show up next financial year.

**The Annual Financial Report for 2022-2023 was accepted unanimously.**

### **4. Program Coordinator's Report**

Jan Tinetti presented the Program Coordinators report in David Lee's absence. She noted that returning to the Collingwood Community Room for forums was a great advantage, and Lyn Watson had obtained an excellent series of speakers. David Lee has negotiated the changing arrangements for a number of venues.

With the introduction of U-MAS, our new member and course management system, thanks are due to Christine Harrison and Sue Kurt for prior work to enable course information to be set up on the new system.

Our course numbers are growing, with 3 new this year and 40 varied courses in total. Our new Pickleball initiative, for example, has been a notable success.

Our community-linked courses have been significant. The Yarra Refugee Welcome Group ran a well-attended, lucrative fundraising trivia night recently. The Ageing Well in Yarra forum with Gerard Mansour, came up with recommendations which have been passed to the Council. Members of the community can attend U3A forums advertised via Yarra Libraries and enrol through Eventbrite.

Thanks are due to all tutors and contributors who share their knowledge time and talents.

Acceptance of the Program Report was moved by Jan Tinetti, seconded by Lyn Watson.

**The Program Coordinator's Report was accepted unanimously.**

## **5. Ordinary Resolution – Fees for 2024**

Motion: That for 2024 the following fees apply: \$40 for full members and \$20 for associate members.  
(Proposed Frank Moore, seconded Viv Blanksby)

Peter Moore spoke making the points that:

- The previous fee of \$30 had been a reduced fee relating to the COVID pandemic which had meant that many activities had been curtailed. However we are operating again at full capacity.
- We have indications that costs for some venues may rise.
- We are in any case at the very low end of U3A fees.

**The Ordinary Resolution regarding fees was passed by show of hands.**

## **6. Nomination of Honorary Life Members**

The life members nominated were:

- **Loraine Chessells** – a quiet supporter and constant provider of morning teas over many years. “The tea lady is getting an award,” was Loraine’s delighted comment.
- **Wendy Hall** - a long term member who has run a number of courses including Places of Interest and Richmond Walking Group. She has also been program coordinator and office manager. Wendy is now most famous for the End of Year Quiz.
- **Bruce Townshend** - “a master of mosaics and baron of bonsai” as Peter described him. Bruce has run these courses over a number of years and been an inspiration to many.

**These nominations for Honorary Life Memberships were accepted unanimously.**

### **Comment from the floor**

Elizabeth Bodkin-Moore: it would be good to have the stories of our life members in our Newsletter. Peter Moore agreed that this was worth consideration in the future.

## **7. Election of Committee of Management members**

The election of the 2024 Committee was overseen by Patsy Brown. The following nominated members were elected.

- Sue Kurt
- Frank Moore
- Peter J Moore (Clifton Hill)
- Jan Tinetti
- Viv Blanksby
- Barry Giddings
- Maria Hudson.

**Meeting closed at 12.30 pm**